

# **Master of Public Health Student Program Manual**

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*Council on Education for Public Health*



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## Executive Summary

The Master of Public Health Program (MPH) in the Department of Public Health (DPH), at the Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University (ECU), is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). This program manual is intended for use by students as they consider application for admission, selection of curriculum, and completion of requirements for the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. This degree requires 45 semester hours (SH), of which 24 are core courses, 15 concentration courses, three credit hours of internship (3 SH) and three hours for professional paper (3 SH).

In-person classes are offered once per week for three hours in the late afternoon or evenings. Many courses are available online.

Additional program information is available in the program page at <http://www.ecu.edu/publichealth>

This manual is also a compilation of philosophy, policies, and procedures of the MPH Program. This manual supplements policies, procedures, and requirements of the ECU Graduate School.

Applications to this program must be submitted through the ECU Graduate School. Although this manual contains the most pertinent information, students need to be familiar with the ECU Graduate School Catalog because in case of conflict, policies of the ECU Graduate School take precedence over policies in this manual.

The ECU Public Health, MPH Graduate School Catalog is available [here](#).

Students adhere to the version of the catalog in effect at the time of matriculation. The DPH reserves the right to add, delete, or modify all provisions in this manual.

## 1.0 Background

### 1.1 About the MPH program.

The MPH program at East Carolina University (ECU) is housed in the Brody School of Medicine. The impetus for establishing the program was based on the eastern North Carolina's (NC) poor health indicators. Eastern NC health indicators rank lower compared to western and Piedmont counties as well as other US cities. **Eastern NC counties** are predominantly rural and disproportionately socioeconomically disadvantaged compared to other regions.

The goal of the MPH program is to contribute to improving the health status of the region's population. We actively promote community engagement, community service, and active learning to promote and improve community health. The program incorporates practice-based teaching, competency-based learning, and evidence-based principles.

Core knowledge areas include epidemiology, health services administration, ethics and law, health behavior and health education, biostatistics, rural health, and environmental health. An internship in any of these settings is required, and the faculty help match students with their interests. We encourage interdisciplinary relationships and research with the School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, College of Nursing, and other university programs.

About 60% of MPH courses are offered on-line and most face-to-face courses are offered 1 session per week for 3 hours, typically, after 3pm. Students can progress through the program either on a part- or full-time basis. Faculty members work with each student individually to tailor an education for their goals. With the Brody School of Medicine, we also offer a dual MD/MPH program.

Historically, our program was founded for NC residents with a principal focus on training a workforce for local and state public health agencies, hospitals and other health and human service providers in North Carolina. While that focus remains our main primary objective, careers in public health require greater skills using technology, quantitative skills to analyze data, and understanding of the complex delivery of healthcare, so our program provides curriculum in these areas.

We offer three concentrations: epidemiology, health administration, and health behavior.

Our program has received accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2012 and is currently accredited through 2019. CEPH (<https://ceph.org/>) is an independent organization which accredits independent public health programs and schools of public health, as recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

The Chair of the Department of Public Health and MPH Program Director is **Dr. Ronny Bell**. [Faculty members](#) have a variety of specialties and expertise in epidemiology, health administration, and health behavior and promotion.

## 1.2 What is Public Health?

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases.

Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood, or as big as an entire country or region of the world.

Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research – in contrast to clinical professionals, such as physicians, who focus primarily on treating individuals after they become sick or injured. Public health also works to limit health disparities. A large part of public health is promoting healthcare equity, quality and accessibility.

Permission given to use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's definition. Reference: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [What is Public Health?](#) Accessed July 31, 2018.

### 1.3 What are Career Opportunities in Public Health?

Careers in public health are vast and many. Careers vary by concentration. For example:

#### **Epidemiology (MPH-level)**

- Health registry personnel
- Data analyst
- Field epidemiology – Disease investigators
- Research assistants for organizations that conduct clinical research
- SAS programming
- Environmental health

#### Epidemiology Employment Outlook

#### **Health Administration (MPH-level)**

- Public health directors
- Hospital/clinic administrators
- Long-term care facility administrators

#### Health Administration Outlook

#### **Health Behavior (MPH-level)**

- Educators within a hospital, clinic, health department
- Program administration
- Private, public, and government sector health educators
- Assessment of public health programs

#### Health Behavior Outlook

**Professionals already employed in various disciplines can enhance their training by obtaining a MPH degree or a public health certificate.**

Health care workers and including but not limited to, nurses, medical doctors, dentists, veterinarians, nutritionists, social workers, psychologists, mental health and substance abuse counselors, pharmacists, and physician assistants, physical therapists, may all benefit from having a MPH degree or even a public health certificate. Non-health care professionals also seek MPH degrees, including, but not limited to, environmental engineers and occupational/safety specialists, law enforcement, and public health lawyers.

### 1.4 About Brody School of Medicine and East Carolina University

Briefly, in 1974, the General Assembly of North Carolina appropriated the funds to establish a four-year medical school at ECU to increase the supply of primary care physicians to serve the state, to improve health status of citizens in eastern North Carolina, and to enhance the access of minority and disadvantaged students to a medical education. Physician faculty serve as adjunct faculty members in DPH. The School of Medicine is nationally recognized for success in pursuit of its mission.

## 2.0 Description of the MPH Program

### 2.1 Mission and Objectives

The mission of the MPH program is to educate, provide service, and advocate for improved community health emphasizing rural and disadvantaged regions as well as research.

The MPH program attains its mission by reaching the following goals:

1. Provide an educational program for current and future public health professionals responsive to meeting needs in a changing environment, including skills to work in rural and disadvantaged communities.
2. Educate individuals to apply a collaborative approach of evidence-based prevention to address public health issues and manage programs in various settings.
3. Increase the quality and quantity of funded public health-related research, including translational research projects that address established regional priorities.
4. Advance the health of communities, particularly in eastern North Carolina, through community engagement, leadership, advocacy and collaborative efforts with public health agencies and other entities.

### 2.2 Graduate School Admission

For details about admission into the ECU Graduate School go [here](#).

The university seeks to admit graduate students who show evidence of being able to succeed in and benefit from academic programs of the rigor offered. To qualify for admission to a graduate degree or certificate program (or as non-degree), an applicant must have a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited four-year institution. Admissions decisions are based on consideration of undergraduate academic record, graduate record if applicable, admission test scores, written statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation.

Each individual graduate program decides on the admissibility of its students, although Graduate School regulations govern the criteria for the classification of graduate student status. Applicants who are offered admission to the Graduate School may be admitted under the following statuses.

#### 2.2.1 Regular Admission

Regular admission indicates that the applicant has met all requirements identified by both the graduate program and the Graduate School.

#### 2.2.2 Admission by Exception

Some programs may recommend admission by exception for a limited number of applicants who do not qualify academically for regular admission, but have other offsetting strengths. Admission by exception requires the student to earn a minimum 3.0 GPA in the first 9 or more completed hours to remain in the

program. A hold is placed on the student's registration for the subsequent term until grades are posted and can be evaluated by the Graduate School. Students admitted by exception can attain full graduate standing after completion of 9 or more graduate credit hours with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

### **2.2.3 Provisional Admission**

Applicants also may be admitted under provisional admission status. This designation indicates that one or more required final documents has not been received by the Graduate School at time of admission. Please see the ECU graduate school website for details.

Applicants who are uncertain about the strength of their application or the documents required for admission are advised to consult with the MPH program director about their admissibility. Early contact with the university can be helpful in preparing the application and providing all required information.

## **2.3 Detailed Application Requirements**

This section is adapted from the ECU Graduate School.

1. All applicants are required to submit a completed online application with a nonrefundable application fee ([www.ecu.edu/gradschool/](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/)).
2. Official score reports are required from a standardized graduate admission exam and must be sent directly to the Graduate School from the testing agencies.
  - a. Some exemptions are available, see "Admission Examination Details", below.
  - b. ECU's GRE code is 5180 and MAT code is 1354.
  - c. The university will accept examinations taken within the past 10 years; however, individual programs may have more specific time requirements.
3. Official transcripts are required for all earned post-secondary degrees and all post-secondary course work completed within 5 years of the date of graduate application. Additional transcripts are required for transfer credits in excess of 50% of the credits required for a post-secondary degree (such as general education credits from a Community College). Post-secondary degrees and courses work includes all educational work completed at the bachelor's level or higher. An ECU undergraduate can request the transcript be included with the application to the MPH program.
4. Official transcripts are required from all foreign institutions attended.
5. Three letters of reference should be sent from persons who can attest to the applicant's academic competency or ability to do graduate work.
6. A completed Statement of Purpose essay (500 words or less).

Applications are submitted through the ECU Graduate School – not the medical school. Applications are first reviewed by the graduate school followed by the MPH program admissions committee.

Fall	August 15th
Spring	December 20th
1st and 11-week Summer	May 5th
2nd Summer	June 15th

### 2.3.1 Admission Examination Details

The GRE or MCAT are required with the MPH application. The application will not be processed through the Graduate School if the GRE is missing, so an admission decision may be delayed.

### 2.3.2 Exceptions to the Admission Examination Requirement

Exam scores are not required for;

- A. certificate programs offered by DPH
- B. non-degree applications
- C. students seeking admission under the professional admission policy (see below, link).

### 2.3.3 Professional Admission Policy

Applicants whose undergraduate degree is approximately 5-7 years old and/or have extensive professional experience related to the intended program of study may be eligible to seek admission through the professional admissions policy upon recommendation of the program director. Interested applicants should consult with Dr. Ronny Bell, MPH program director.

### 2.3.4 Admission to Certificate Programs

Students apply separately to the certificate programs. The Department of Public Health offers a five-course Certificate in Public Health Foundations & Practice ([PHFP](#)) and a four-course Certificate in Ethnic & Rural Health Disparities ([ERHD](#)).

### 2.3.5 Non-degree Applicants

1. Non-degree admission is an enrollment category in which the student is not accepted into a specific degree or certificate program but is approved to take courses that have no catalog restrictions. It may be used by students matriculated at another institution who wish to enroll as visiting students, individuals wanting to take courses for personal/professional enrichment, and individuals wanting to take prerequisite course work for later application to the MPH degree program.
2. To apply for non-degree enrollment, prospective students must submit an online non-degree graduate application at [www.ecu.edu/gradschool/](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/). An official transcript or other document showing an earned bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution is required. A nonrefundable application fee is required.
3. A maximum of 9 semester hours of course work taken as a non-degree student may apply towards the MPH program if accepted into the program.

4. Requests for degree credit for courses completed as a non-degree student are considered after admission into the MPH program. All non-degree course work accepted for degree credit must be approved by the Dr. Ronny Bell, chair and the dean of the Graduate School.
5. Course work taken as a non-degree student carries with it no implication that the student will be admitted into the MPH program.
6. Non-degree students are expected to familiarize themselves with Graduate School policies and to seek further advice or clarification.

### **2.3.6 Withdrawal**

When a graduate student drops all university courses in a semester in which he or she is enrolled, the student must officially withdraw from the university. Students seeking to withdraw for reasons other than extenuating circumstances must notify the Office of Registrar of their official withdrawal (CAS@ecu.edu). A graduate student withdrawing from the university by the last day for graduate students to drop courses without grades will not receive grades in university courses for the semester.

A graduate student withdrawing after the last day for graduate students to drop courses without grades will receive a grade of F for all university classes which he or she is failing at the time. The last day for a graduate student to drop a class without grades will be 5:00 PM on the class day after 60% of the class days are completed for the term. No retroactive withdrawals will be granted after classes have ended for the semester in which the student was enrolled.

Students withdrawing for extenuating circumstances must apply for an extenuating circumstances withdrawal to the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). No retroactive extenuating circumstances withdrawals will be granted after classes have ended for the semester in which the student was enrolled, except in the case of extraordinary medical, personal or family emergency, in the judgment of the dean of the Graduate School.

## **2.4 Administration and Organization**

The MPH degree program is administered by the Department of Public Health within the Brody School of Medicine. Dr. Bell, Department Chair, is responsible for department functions and all degrees/certificates offered by the department. You can see a list of DPH Faculty [here](#).

## 3.0 Curriculum

**3.1 Areas of Concentration and Concentration Program Plans.** Students select an area of concentration prior to matriculation.

- Epidemiology (EPI)
- Health Administration (HA)
- Health Behavior (HB)

Concentration areas represent distinct specific areas of study that prepare students for career paths in each discipline. Each course is instructed by faculty with expertise in their content area.

Students may enroll in other concentration courses as electives. **Exhibit 1** shows public health competencies by concentration.

### **Exhibit 1** Public Health Competencies by Concentration

#### **Epidemiology Concentration Competencies**

1. Critically evaluate public health literature through application of fundamental principles and epidemiology methods.
2. Develop a foundation for designing protocols to address public health problems.
3. Apply quantitative skills to organize, analyze, interpret, and synthesize data using epidemiologic principles.
4. Design surveillance for a public health problem and identify surveillance data needs.
5. Collaborate across disciplines to plan, implement, and evaluate public health programs.

#### **Health Administration Concentration Competencies**

1. Apply systems thinking in addressing rural and minority health inequities.
2. Examine policy impacts on health and health care access for disadvantaged populations.
3. Participation in policy formation and advocacy to improve the health and health care access for disadvantaged populations to reduce health inequities.
4. Leadership skills in strategic planning/management with a focus on reducing disparities in disadvantaged populations.
5. Financial performance analysis.
6. Human resources management skills inclusive of diversity and disadvantaged populations.

#### **Health Behavior Concentration Competencies**

1. Design a conceptual and/or logic model to guide intervention development and/or data collection for program evaluation.
2. Plan, implement and evaluate health promotion and disease prevention interventions that address multiple levels of the socioecological framework.
3. Use qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze data regarding programmatic needs and evaluation.
4. Create and implement a plan for public health partnership building to achieve common community and public health goals.
5. Demonstrate knowledge related to managing a project including budget preparation, manage timelines and deliverables, hiring contractors, training staff, human resources, interactions with funders and final deliverables.



### 3.2 Core Curriculum and Courses Offered in Other Departments

Forty-five (45) semester hours (SH) are required for the MPH degree. As presented in **Exhibit 2a**, each concentration requires 8 core courses, 3 concentration-specific courses, 2 elective courses, and 4 courses for the MPH “capstone” courses.

**Exhibit 2a.** Summary of Course Requirements by Concentration and Semester Hours (SH)

Course Requirements	Concentration		
	Epidemiology	Health Administration	Health Behavior
Core Courses*	8 (24 SH)	8 (24 SH)	8 (24 SH)
Concentration-specific core courses	3 (9 SH)	3 (9 SH)	3 (9 SH)
Electives	2 (6 SH)	2 (6 SH)	2 (6 SH)
Capstone** courses and Internship	4 (6 SH)	4 (6 SH)	4 (6 SH)
Total SH for MPH	17 (45 SH)	17 (45 SH)	17 (45 SH)

\*Core represents required courses.

\*\* Capstone represent a professional paper and internship.

**Exhibit 2b** describes the core courses, the current format availability (on-line or in-class) followed by the course descriptions.

**Exhibit 2b.** Core Courses by Concentration and Delivery Format (24 SH)

Core Course	Semester Hours	Course Name	Course Format	
			On-line	In-class
<b>All*</b>				
BIOS 7021	3	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	✓	✓
MPH 6000	3	Public Health Practice	✓	✓
MPH 6002	3	Ethics and Health Law	✓	✓
MPH 6010	3	Fundamentals of Environment Health	✓	✓
MPH 6011	3	Introduction to Epidemiology	✓	✓
MPH 6013	3	Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	✓	✓
MPH 6035	3	Interdisciplinary Rural Health	✓	<i>Occasionally</i>
<b>EPI</b>				
MPH 6702	3	Epidemiology Methods		✓
<b>HA and HB</b>				
MPH 6020	3	Research Methods	✓	✓

Consistent with the current CEPH accreditation requirements, five core courses are required; however, our program includes three additional core courses:

**\*BIOS 7021 – Biostatistics for Health Professionals:** Introduction to biostatistics at the graduate level.

**\*MPH 6000 - Public Health Practice:** Foundation for public health administration. Introduces MPH degree program. Applied focus on public health problems, issues, and resources of eastern North Carolina. Describes how empirical assessment of population

health status informs managerial decision-making and describes the organization of the public health infrastructure. Overview range of practice in public health and of tools and resources for health improvement.

**MPH 6002 - Ethics and Law in Public Health.** Core issues and skills for public health administration and practice. Focuses on public health law, ethics, legislation, media relations, human services management, and emergency preparedness.

**\*MPH 6010 - Fundamentals of Environmental Health.** Effects of environment on human health with focus on rural environment. Considers water supply and wastewater disposal, water quality, solid and hazardous wastes, air quality, occupational health and safety, food protection, and vector control.

**\*MPH 6011 - Introduction to Epidemiology.** Introduces methods and concepts of epidemiologic methodology and application of epidemiology in public health.

**\*MPH 6013 - Behavioral Sciences and Health Education.** Introduces concepts of role of social factors in health and illness as well as health education/promotion. Overview of relationships between various social factors, with health outcomes. Includes theories and approaches of health education/promotion programs.

**MPH 6020 - Research Methods.** (*HA and HB*) Synthesize material from social and behavioral sciences, biostatistics, and epidemiology to better understand health problems.

or

**MPH 6702 – Epidemiology Methods.** (*EPI*) explores quantitative research methods, principles and techniques necessary for designing and executing epidemiological research.

**MPH 6035 - Interdisciplinary Rural Health.** Theoretical base and skills for interdisciplinary rural health practice.

\*CEPH required core courses

All MPH course descriptions can be found in the ECU Graduate Catalog using this [link](#).

## Core Courses Offered in Other Departments

Biostatistics courses and environmental health are non-MPH courses.

### Biostatistics for Health Professionals I — BIOS 7021

Biostatistics courses are taught through the Department of Biostatistics in the College of Allied Health Sciences under prefix BIOS. College Algebra is a pre-requisite for BIOS 7021, such as ECU Math 1065, College Algebra.

For all BIOS scheduling, students must contact Ms. Rhonda Bode ([boder@ecu.edu](mailto:boder@ecu.edu)), the Biostatistics Student Services Coordinator, to enroll in Biostatistics for Health Professionals I and Biostatistics for Health Professionals II (BIOS 7021 and 7022, respectively). Preferences for an in-class or on-line class will be scheduled on a first-come basis via Ms. Bode.

## Environmental Health – EHST 6010

Fundamentals of Environmental Health is cross-listed with the Master of Science Environmental Health (MSEH) program; however, the prefix of the course is ESTH.

### 3.2.1 Epidemiology Concentration

A goal of epidemiology is to understand the frequency, distribution, and causes of disease variation and use this information to design and test interventions to improve the health of populations. Results of epidemiologic studies guide policy development in public health and healthcare. Epidemiology is a quantitative science that blends biological and social sciences to design research and analyze data to solve population health questions.

Careers in epidemiology at the MPH-level require strong functionality with managing and analyzing data. Graduates gain employment assisting with clinical research activities in academic settings and consulting firms. State and local health departments often hire MPH-prepared epidemiologists for program coordination or basic data analysis.

The current coordinator of the Epidemiology Concentration is [Suzanne Lea, PhD, MPH](#).

**Exhibit 3** outlines a typical epidemiology course trajectory for a full-time student intending to complete the program in five semesters. At the time of matriculation, each student should work with their academic advisor to plan their course of study.

**Exhibit 3.** Epidemiology Course Trajectory in five semesters for full-time, fall admission.

Year 1			Year 2	
Fall 1	Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 2	Spring 2
<b>MPH 6000</b> Public Health Practice	<b>MPH 6002</b> Ethics and Law in Public Health	<b>MPH/EHST 6010</b> Fundamentals of Environmental Health	<b>MPH 6035</b> Interdisciplinary Rural Health	<b>Epidemiology Concentration Course</b>
<b>MPH 6011</b> Introduction to Epidemiology	<b>MPH 6702</b> Epidemiology Methods	<b>MPH 6905</b> Field Placement (Internship)	<b>MPH 7202</b> Public Health Data Analysis	<b>Electives</b>
<b>MPH 6013</b> Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	<b>MPH 6904</b> Introduction to Field Placement		Elective or Epidemiology Concentration Course	<b>MPH 6992</b> Professional Paper II (Capstone)
<b>BIOS 7021</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	<b>BIOS 7022</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals II		<b>MPH 6991</b> Professional Paper I (Capstone)	

Students are assigned one of the following faculty members to guide academic planning and training. Epidemiology faculty serving as advisors are:

Name	Area of Interest	Email Address
Ronny Bell, PhD, MS	Diabetes, cardiovascular, metabolic epidemiology	bellr16@ecu.edu
Greg Kearney, DrPH, MPH, RS	Occupational and environmental epidemiology	kearneyg@ecu.edu
Juhee Kim, ScD, MS	Nutrition and maternal-health	kimju@ecu.edu
C. Suzanne Lea, PhD, MPH	Cancer epidemiology, Environmental epidemiology	leac@ecu.edu
Lok Pokhrel, PhD, MS	Nanotoxicology; Nano-Technology Development	pokhrell18@ecu.edu
Sinan Sousan, PhD	Occupational and environmental health	sousans18@ecu.edu

Advising Forms for Epidemiology concentration can be found in **Appendix 5**.

### 3.2.2 Health Administration Concentration

Health Administration (HA) prepares students for management and leadership careers in the health industry. This concentration prepares graduates for a broad range of careers in the health and related organizations including public health, hospitals, health systems, physician group practices, long-term care facilities, consulting firms, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies and others. HA curriculum includes courses on current economic, social, policy and practice issues in the healthcare system.

HA emphasizes the conceptual, analytical, and applied skills required for health administration, policy analysis, management, and leadership careers.

The current coordinator of the Health Administration Concentration is [Huabin Luo, PhD](#).

**Exhibit 4** outlines a proposed Health Administration course trajectory for a full-time student intending to complete the program in 24 months. At the time of matriculation, each student should work with their academic advisor to plan their course of study.

#### **Exhibit 4:** Health Administration Course Trajectory in five semesters for full-time, fall admission

Year 1			Year 2	
Fall 1	Spring 1	Summer 1	Fall 2	Spring 2
<b>MPH 6000</b> Public Health Practice	<b>MPH 6002</b> Ethics and Law in Public Health	<b>MPH/EHST 6010</b> Fundamentals of Environmental Health	<b>MPH 6810</b> Strategic & Financial Management of Health Care Organizations	<b>MPH 7010</b> Human Resources Management and Leadership
<b>MPH 6035</b> Interdisciplinary Rural Health	<b>MPH 6020</b> Research Methods	<b>MPH 6905</b> Field Placement (Internship)	<b>MPH 6700</b> Health Economics	<b>MPH 6800</b> Health Policy & Politics
<b>MPH 6013</b> Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	<b>MPH 6904</b> Introduction to Field Placement	<b>MPH 6040</b> Long Term Care Administration	<b>MPH 6991</b> Professional Paper I (Capstone)	<b>MPH 6992</b> Professional Paper II (Capstone)
<b>BIOS 7021</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	<b>MPH 6011</b> Introduction to Epidemiology			

Students are assigned one of the following faculty members to guide academic planning and training. Health Administration faculty serving as advisors are:

Name	Area of Interest	Email Address
Ruth Little, EdD, MPH	Public health administration, cultural/organizational competency/community engagement	<a href="mailto:littlea@ecu.edu">littlea@ecu.edu</a>
Huabin Luo, PhD	Methods, Financial Management	<a href="mailto:luoh@ecu.edu">luoh@ecu.edu</a>
Ari Mwachofi, PhD	Health Economics, Health Policy, Research Methods, Health Disparities	<a href="mailto:mwachofia@ecu.edu">mwachofia@ecu.edu</a>

Advising Forms for Health Administration concentration can be found in **Appendix 6**.

### 3.2.3 Health Behavior Concentration

The Health Behavior concentration offers curriculum in theories of behavior change, program planning, program evaluation and mixed methods research. The goal of the Health Behavior concentration is to train students to become health promotion professionals, where they may find employment in governmental, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations.

Health promotion professionals conduct community health assessments; plan, conduct, and evaluate health interventions; direct health communication campaigns; build community health coalitions and partnerships; lead quality improvement efforts; and lead research in aspects of community and behavioral health.

The current coordinator of the Health Behavior concentration is [Stephanie Pitts, PhD](#). **Exhibit 5** outlines a typical health behavior course trajectory for a full-time student intending to complete the program in 24 months.

In addition to these courses, the concentration offers several one credit hour distance education courses in vital areas of public health practice that are available to all students and may be “bundled” by health behavior students to satisfy elective requirements. Offerings typically include: Grant Writing, Social Media and Health Improvement, Quality Improvement, Qualitative Research, and Building Partnerships and Coalitions.

**Exhibit 5:** Health Behavior Course Trajectory in five semesters for full-time, fall admission

<b>Year 1</b>			<b>Year 2</b>	
<b>Fall 1</b>	<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Summer 1</b>	<b>Fall 2</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>
<b>MPH 6000</b> Public Health Practice	<b>MPH 6002</b> Ethics and Law in Public Health	<b>MPH/EHST 6010</b> Fundamentals of Environmental Health	<b>MPH 6035</b> Interdisciplinary Rural Health	<b>MPH 6702</b> Applied Mixed Methods
<b>MPH 6011</b> Introduction to Epidemiology	<b>MPH 6020</b> Research Methods	<b>MPH 6905</b> Field Placement (Internship)	<b>MPH 7201</b> Introduction to Survey Methodology	<b>Elective</b>
<b>MPH 6013</b> Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	<b>MPH 6904</b> Introduction to Field Placement		<b>MPH 6991</b> Professional Paper I (Capstone)	<b>MPH 6992</b> Professional Paper II (Capstone)
<b>MPH 6600</b> Planning Public Health Programs	<b>BIOS 7021</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	←————→		<b>BIOS 7021</b> Biostatistics for Health Professionals I
	<b>MPH 6605</b> Program Evaluation			

Students are assigned one of the following faculty members to guide academic planning and training. Health Behavior faculty serving as advisors are:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Area of Interest</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Marla Hall, PhD	Health disparities, cultural competency, chronic disease and self-management, disease prevention	hallmar114@ecu.edu
Stephanie Jilcott-Pitts, PhD	Environmental and policy statements to prevent obesity	jilcotts@ecu.edu
Ann Rafferty, PhD, MS	Survey methods, nutrition	raffertya@ecu.edu
Nancy Winterbauer, PhD, MS	Engaged scholarship, practice-based research, mixed-methods research, qualitative methods	winterbauern@ecu.edu

Advising Forms for Health Behavior concentration can be found in **Appendix 7**.

### 3.3 Other Concentration-Specific Courses and Electives

In addition to concentration-specific courses, students take 6 credit hours of electives.

Most graduate level university course (6000 or above) approved by the student's academic advisor for which the Instructor grants permission to enroll may be considered. Academic advisors work with students to choose electives that best prepare them for their future in the public health workforce. Students planning to conduct a survey to meet their professional paper (below) or internship requirements or their professional goals are strongly encouraged to take Introduction to Survey Methodology (MPH 7021).

#### Epidemiology

##### **BIOS 7022 - Biostatistics for Health Professionals II (3 SH)**

Topics include ANOVA for multi-factor designs and analysis of single degree of freedom contrasts; randomized block and repeated measures designs; nonparametric methods for standard designs; multiple linear and logistic regression; and chi-square analysis of contingency tables.

Prerequisites: Biostatistics for Health Professionals II (BIOS 7021) with a grade of B or better or consent of instructor. Continuation of BIOS 7021.

##### **MPH 7202 - Introduction to Public Health Data Analysis (3 SH)**

Basic instruction in public health data analysis using core features of SAS Software.

Prerequisites: Biostatistics for Health Professionals I and II (MPH 7021), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor

##### **MPH 6021 - Epidemiology of Chronic Disease (3 SH)**

Epidemiologic measures, statistical methods, and quantitative models specific to chronic disease epidemiology.

Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor

##### **MPH 6022 - Epidemiology of Infectious Disease (3 SH)**

Provides concepts involved in understanding causes, transmission, and control of infectious disease as well as policies, methods, and tools employed in surveillance, detection, investigation, control, and prevention of disease outbreaks.

Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor

##### **MPH 6023 - Epidemiology of Cancer (3 SH)**

Study design and epidemiologic methods used in cancer epidemiology research.

Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor

##### **MPH 7205 - Nutritional Epidemiology (3 SH)**

Conduct and interpret epidemiological studies relating food and nutrition to health promotion and disease prevention focusing on dietary assessment.

Prerequisites: Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (BIOS 7021), Research Methods (MPH 6020), or consent of instructor

##### **MPH 7200 - Principles of Public Health Surveillance (3 SH)**

Public health surveillance as a fundamental epidemiologic activity applied to infectious and non-infectious conditions affecting human populations.

Prerequisites: Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (BIOS 7021), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), or consent of instructor

## Health Administration

### **MPH 6025 - Delivery of Healthcare Services (3 SH)**

Overview of delivery and effective leadership of healthcare services.

Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000)

### **MPH 6040 - Long Term Care Administration (3 SH)**

Overview of delivery of long term care services with an emphasis on the knowledge and skills needed for effective leadership.

Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), or consent of Instructor

### **MPH 6200 - Community Health Organization and Leadership (3 SH)**

Leadership, community organization, planning, advocacy and communication skills for administration of community health centers and integrated health care systems.

Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), or consent of Instructor

### **MPH 6700 - Health Economics (3 SH)**

Application of economic analysis tools to health decision-making at the individual-level and in health care and public health systems.

Prerequisites: ECON 2113 or equivalent.

### **MPH 6800 - Health Policy and Politics (3 SH)**

Examines the health policy formation context as a component of the environment of public health administration and practice and roles of public health and healthcare professionals.

### **MPH 6810 - Strategic and Financial Management of Healthcare Organizations (3 SH)**

Provides a framework for understanding strategic and financial management of healthcare organizations.

### **MPH 7010 - Human Resource Management and Leadership for Health Administration (3 SH)**

Provides the essential knowledge and skills for management of human resources in a health services organization and a foundation in leadership theory, skills and applications.

Prerequisites: Consent of academic advisor.



## Health Behavior

### **MPH 6027 - Applied Mixed-Methods Research (3 SH)**

Mixed-methods data collection and analysis, with focus on use of qualitative and quantitative software.

Prerequisites: Research Methods (MPH 6020), Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (BIOS 7021), or consent of instructor.

### **MPH 6600 - Planning Public Health Programs (3 SH)**

Development and delivery of public health programs.

Prerequisites: Behavioral Sciences and Health Education (MPH 6013)

### **MPH 6605 - Evaluating Public Health Programs (3 SH)**

Evaluation of public health programs, including formative, process, impact, and outcome evaluation.

Prerequisites: Behavioral Sciences and Health Education (MPH 6013), Planning Public Health Programs (MPH 6600)

### **MPH 7031 - Topics in Public Health (3 SH)**

May be repeated up to 6 SH with change of topic.

Prerequisites: Readings and discussion related to contemporary issues and emerging topics in public health. Consent of instructor.

### **MPH 7201 - Introduction to Survey Methodology (3 SH)**

Overview of principles and practices of population-based survey research, including methods, sampling designs, questionnaire development, sources of error, and analysis of survey data.

Prerequisites: Research Methods (MPH 6020), Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (BIOS 7021), or consent of instructor.

## Capstone Courses

### **MPH 6904 - Introduction to Field Placement (1 SH)**

Introduces the student to leaders from different healthcare entities; providing information and discussion on both field placement and career ladder opportunities in their specific health care domains.

Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), Ethics and Law Public Health (MPH 6002), Fundamentals of Environmental Health (MPH 6010), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), Behavioral Sciences and Health Education (MPH 6013), Research Methods (MPH 6020), Interdisciplinary Rural Health (MPH 6035), Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (BIOS 7021); or consent of instructor.

### **MPH 6905 - Applied Field Placement (2 SH)**

Demonstration of academic knowledge with learned public health core competencies in professional public health practice settings. 240 hour field placement.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Field Placement (MPH 6904)

### **MPH 6991 - MPH Professional Paper I (2 SH)**

May be repeated. Only 3 SH may count towards the degree. Includes applied learning exercise on the implementation of public health and epidemiologic research methodology. Students develop a research proposal (MPH 6991); implement their proposal, analyze their results, and write a public health research article (MPH 6992) that is ready for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Prerequisites: Public Health Practice (MPH 6000), Ethics and Law Public Health (MPH 6002), Introduction to Epidemiology (MPH 6011), Research Methods (MPH 6020) or consent of instructor.

### **MPH 6992 - MPH Professional Paper II (1 SH)**

May be repeated. Only 3 SH may count towards the degree. Includes applied learning exercise on the implementation of public health and epidemiologic research methodology. Students develop a research proposal (MPH 6991); implement their proposal, analyze their results, and write a public health research article (MPH 6992) that is ready for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Prerequisites: All core courses or consent of instructor.

### 3.4 Internship/Field Placement

An internship consisting of 240 contact hours is required of all students. The field experience or internship offers students the opportunity to integrate and demonstrate the application of academic knowledge with learned public health core competencies in a professional setting through exposure to one or more core functions of essential public health services.

Each semester (fall, spring, summer), the Field Placement Coordinator(s) will offer meetings to discuss internship interests. MPH 6903 (Comprehensive Field Placement), MPH 6904 (Introduction to Field Placement), and MPH 6905 (Applied Field Placement) are offered each semester including summers. The internship can be completed during any semester. Students should complete their core requirements or the majority of their core requirements before beginning an internship. Most students enroll in MPH 6904 followed by MPH 6905. In some cases, students with previous experience in a public health field may enroll in MPH 6903, Comprehensive Field Placement (3 SH).

Students who recently completed an undergraduate degree without substantial working experience enroll in Introduction to Field Placement (MPH 6904) in the spring of their first year, when the majority, if not all, the core requirements will have been completed. The internship is usually completed during the summer between the first and second year. Students are not limited to summer internships; many students enroll during the fall and/or spring semester. The instructor for MPH 6904 provides a process for completing the internship. Please confer with your academic advisor or student services coordinator about instructors for MPH 6904 in the semester preceding the semester to enroll in internship course MPH 6905.

Field placement is one of the capstone experiences whereby the student and preceptor agency work together within the course structure on a project that is mutually beneficial to the agency and the student. The preceptor is required to have substantial experience in public health leadership.

Preceptor availability often varies by time of year. The ECU MPH program has affiliation agreements with many agencies. Students may suggest an agency but a University Affiliation Agreement (UAA) is required with the agency and may take two or more months to establish between the agency and the University. For more information on field placement go [here](#).

Under some exceptions, students may request a waiver from the internship requirement. Permission must be sought by the Program Director. Another three hour course must be taken to accrue the needed 45 hours.

### 3.5 Integrative Learning Experience (ILE)

The second component of the capstone experience is the “integrative learning experience” during which students demonstrate and synthesize their knowledge and skills acquired in core and concentration courses by conducting a research project and writing a professional paper. Dr. Ann Rafferty is the coordinator for the two courses, Professional Paper I and II. (MPH 6991 and MPH 6992, respectively).

To successfully accomplish their ILE, students conduct a research project, which includes the following steps: review the literature regarding a practice-based or action oriented public health or clinical question in their area of interest, design and plan a research project, complete an Institutional Review Board (IRB) application (if necessary), implement the project, write up the findings similar to manuscript, and present the findings in poster format to the faculty and fellow students.

The professional paper consists of two linked courses (MPH 6991 and MPH 6992), typically completed over a two semester sequence.

- Professional Paper I (MPH 6991) is a two semester hour course in which students develop a well constructed proposal for a research project that can be completed in MPH 6992. If the student proposes a project that includes human subjects, an IRB application must be completed during the Professional Paper I semester.
- Professional Paper II (MPH 6992) is a one semester hour course in which students carry out the proposal developed in Professional Paper I by conducting the research project, writing up the results in a professional paper, and presenting a poster describing their completed project.

Prerequisites for the professional paper include all the core courses are in **Exhibit 6**.

## Process

1. Students should talk with several faculty members about possible topics that are of interest to them, and then choose one faculty member and ask them if they would be willing to serve as their Primary Professor (advisor and mentor for Professional Paper I and II). A list of potential professional paper topics and faculty interests is on the DPH pro paper [webpage](#).
2. Before registering for MPH 6991, students should set up an initial meeting with their Primary Professor to finalize their topic. At that meeting the student and their Primary Professor should together complete the Integrated Learning Experience (ILE) Agreement and Concept Form. The Primary Professor will then submit the completed form to the Student Services Coordinator.
3. Students should find out what section of MPH 6991 their Primary Professor is teaching and register for that section.
4. Students will work with their Primary Professor over two semesters to complete their professional paper project.
5. Both courses (MPH 6991 and 6992) cannot be taken concurrently in the same semester without approval.
6. A paper and a poster presentation are required for completion of MPH 6992.

## Exhibit 6. Professional Paper Prerequisites

Prerequisites for MPH 6991 - Professional Paper I
MPH 6000 Public Health Practice
MPH 6002 Ethics and Law in Public Health
MPH 6011 Introduction to Epidemiology
MPH 6020 or MPH 6702 Research/Epid Research Methods
BIOS 7021 Biostatistics for Health Professionals I (Epid only)
MPH 6013 Behavioral Sciences and Health Education (Health Behavior only)
Prerequisites for MPH 6992 - Professional Paper II
MPH 6991 Professional Paper I
MPH 6010 Fundamentals of Environmental Health
MPH 6013 Behavioral Sciences and Health Education
MPH 6035 Interdisciplinary Rural Health
BIOS 7021 Biostatistics for Health Professionals I
BIOS 7022 Biostatistics for Health Professionals II (Epid only)

Current students should refer to the Professional Paper Guidelines for more details. These guidelines and an example of a completed professional paper are available on the [DPH website](#).

Students receive a **S** for “Satisfactory” or a **U** for “Unsatisfactory” for both classes. Unsatisfactory represents a failure to pass. To progress to Professional Paper II, a student must receive a **S** for Professional Paper I. Upon successful completion of Professional Paper II, a student will be awarded a **S**. Credits from MPH 6991 are not assigned until completion of MPH 6992. If a U is conferred to either course, the course must be retaken.

### 3.6 Changing Concentrations

Students may change concentrations within their first 12 semester hours after consultation with their concentration advisor and the coordinator of the concentration to which they wish transfer. The student’s advisor will assist in facilitating this process.

#### Guide to changing concentrations

- Email academic advisor and request an appoint to discuss reasons for the desired change.
- Discuss reasons with academic advisor.

Students must complete the “Change in Concentration Request Form” and “Change in Academic Advisor Request Form.” (**See Appendix 3**)

One’s advisor will assist the student with their request. Students should explain the request by email to their academic advisor while cc’ing (copying) the concentration advisor and Chair. Final decisions will be made by concentration coordinator and other faculty within the field of interest.

Should a student wish to change concentration, one should expect taking extra courses, perhaps extending the program an extra semester, depending if the student is part- or full-time.

## 4.0 Certificate Programs

### ECU MPH’s program offers two certificate programs

- Public Health Foundations and Practice (PHFP)
- Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities (ERHD)

#### 4.1 Graduate Certificate in Public Health Foundations and Practice (PHFP)

The goal of the Graduate Certificate in Public Health Foundations and Practice (PHFP) is to prepare students with the fundamental core principles and concepts associated with public health. The certificate is designed for individuals either currently working in public health (local or state health departments, healthcare field, physicians, nurses, dentists), or those with no public health experience, who are considering the master of public health (MPH) degree (prior to a full commitment). Program Director is [Greg Kearney, DrPH, PhD](#).

The PHFP certificate program addresses public health from a practice based perspective, placing emphasis on core factors that influence adverse health outcomes among underserved populations. With a background in public health practice, students (including working professionals) gain insight into disease prevention methods that lead to improving health at the community level as well as developing skills that offer job opportunities within various health sectors.

The certificate is open to students enrolled in graduate and medical degree programs as well as non-degree applicants holding a baccalaureate degree. Students currently enrolled in the MPH program are not eligible to earn the public health foundations and practice certificate.

The certificate program is open to any student that has successfully completed a baccalaureate program with a 2.5 GPA and meets requirements determined by the Department of Public Health.

A student must complete five certificate courses with a 3.0 GPA or better. Courses in this certificate program may be transferred into the MPH program with a grade of "B" or better and upon meeting the department's academic admission requirements for the MPH program.

If a student does not have a former health related degree, the student will be required to take Public Health Practice (MPH 6000) before enrolling in another course. A student's successful completion of 15 semester credit hours (**Exhibit 7**) results in award the certificate.

All courses for this certificate are offered via distance education. Certificate program students enroll in same courses as students in MPH program. All courses provide the student with an introduction to the fundamental concepts, methods and aspects of public health, primarily used in a rural, public health practice-based setting. The courses in sequence are shown in **Exhibit 7**.

**Exhibit 7.** Sequence of courses are as follows:

Course Number	Course Name (All Distance Education)	Credits
MPH 6000	Public Health Practice (waived with Permisson)	3
MPH 6011	Introduction to Epidemiology	3
BIOS 7021	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	3
MPH 6010	Fundamentals of Environmental Health	3
MPH 6013	Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15 SH</b>

## 4.2 Graduate Certificate in Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities (EHRD)

The Certificate in Ethnic and Rural Health Disparities (ERHD) prepares professionals to identify, analyze and develop culturally competent projects for specific ethnic and rural communities in the United States and global communities.

This online certificate program provides students with specific public health skills that will assist health researchers and public health professionals in working with and developing culturally competent health care programs for ethnic and health disparity populations. Program Director is [Eric Bailey, PhD, MPH](#).

## **Program Objectives**

The major program objectives for this online Ethnic Health and Health Disparities Certificate program are:

1. Identify and assess the major health issues associated with specific ethnic and health disparity populations in eastern North Carolina, North Carolina and the United States;
2. Explore ethnic health and health disparity issues, including its unique and cultural health features;
3. Examine health, illness and disease processes from a biopsychosociocultural (BPSC) perspective;
4. Apply principles and strategies derived from public health and medical anthropology toward planning, implementing and evaluating specific ethnic health and health disparities intervention programs;
5. Develop culturally competent understanding, appreciation, and respect of ethnic and health disparity differences and similarities within, among and between groups;
6. Develop assessment tools that are unbiased, culturally sensitive and advocacy-oriented;
7. Develop specific public health skill sets that will better assist health professionals in working with ethnic and health disparity groups;
8. Provide an online, 12 semester hour certificate program for public health professionals and graduate students that can be completed within one year.

## **Program Description**

The 12-semester hour Graduate Certificate in Ethnic Health and Health Disparities is designed for public health professionals working in public health agencies and graduate students in Public Health, Allied Health, School of Nursing or School of Medicine programs.

Completion of the certificate requires completion of approved coursework with an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B). A student may earn only 3 semester hours of credit at a C level. Transfer hours are not accepted into the certificate program.

This certificate is offered only online. No face-to-face meetings are required. This certificate is can be completed in 12 months, depending on the student's schedule.

The certificate may create a pathway to a MPH Degree at ECU. However, it is of import to note that completion of the certificate does not guarantee admission into a graduate degree program. Application to the graduate degree program must be made separately.

Applicants must meet ECU admission requirements: an earned baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university with a grade point average of 2.5 or above and acceptable scores on an approved standardized exam such as the GRE or GMAT. Admissions to the Ethnic Health and Health Disparities Certificate Program are semi-annual.

The courses in sequence are shown in **Exhibit 8**.

**Exhibit 8.** Sequence of courses are as follows

Course Number	Course Name (All Distance Education)	Credits
MPH 6005	African-American Health	3
MPH 6007	Global Public Health	3
MPH 6008	Ethnic Health and Health Disparities	3
MPH 6009	Capstone Experience in Ethnic Health & Health Disparities	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12 SH</b>

## 5.0 Registering for Courses

Students register for courses themselves. At the beginning of the program, student meets with the academic advisor to develop a course plan based on student's anticipated graduation date. The student services coordinator emails the student (copies academic advisor) the MPH course schedule prior to Early Registration each semester. The student confers with academic advisor and self registers. Faculty may choose to document all enrollment and advising activities in Degree Works.

Please refer to the last date of registration and drop date. Click [here](#) to see the current academic calendar.

### 5.1 Continuous Enrollment (or Registration)

Graduate students who have previously registered for all credits in a graduate degree program but who have not completed all requirements (e.g., thesis, professional paper, internship, etc.) must continue to register each semester (except summer terms) until all degree requirements are completed and filed with the registrar. **Students must be enrolled for at least one credit hour during the semester of graduation except summer, if registered for the prior spring semester.**

### 5.2 Leave of Absence and Readmission

In special circumstances, students may request a **leave of absence** from their program of study. Students enrolled in graduate degree programs who take a leave of absence of one or more semesters (excluding summer terms) must notify the MPH program director and file a readmission application prior to returning. During a leave of absence students will not be permitted to utilize university resources.

Students who take a leave of less than three years may file an application for readmission online at [www.ecu.edu/gradschool/](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/). Students who take a leave of absence of three or more years must submit a new complete application to be considered for admission to their former program.

### 5.3 Application for Graduation

The Application for graduation should be completed in Banner Self-Service at least one semester prior to completion of the requirements of the degree.

### 5.4 Probation and Termination Policy

To remain in good academic standing, graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all coursework related to their program of study once they have a total of 9 credit hours attempted\* and any additional or higher academic standards established by their program of study. Students who fail to meet their program's criteria may be placed on probation or dismissed from the program. A probationary period last for the term(s) in which the next nine credit hours are attempted.

Enrollment in the Graduate School will be automatically terminated for students who fail to correct their academic deficiencies by the end of the probationary period. Graduate students will not be allowed to take classes and subject to immediate dismissal once it becomes mathematically impossible to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all coursework related to their program of study by the end of the remaining probationary period.

Students may appeal dismissal decisions by following the process outlined in the Graduate School Appeals Procedure.

\*Total credit hours attempted is the sum of credit hours for all graduate courses in which a graduate student is enrolled as of the tenth day of each semester (*the Official University Enrollment Report Date or "Census Date"*). *Courses with a grade of "I" (incomplete) or dropped after census date are included in the calculation of credit hours attempted.*

### 6.0 Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to abide by the ECU Code of Student Conduct. Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are not expected among our students and will be dealt with according to the ECU Code of Conduct. Details of Brody BSOM at East Carolina University MPH Code of Student Conduct can be found [here](#).

### 7.0 Course Attendance

Course attendance is expected of all students. Faculty members have the right to establish attendance and participation requirements in each of their courses.

Course requirements (e.g., examinations, oral presentations, laboratory experiments, participation in discussion) are in no sense waived due to absence from class. Instructors may establish penalties when excessive absences would seriously hinder achievement in any course. It is the instructor's discretion as to how absences will be handled.



## 8.0 Courses

### 8.1 Course Load

Up to 15 semester hours of course may be taken in any fall or spring semester without the written permission of the department or college and the dean of the Graduate School. A student is considered to be enrolled full-time when registered for a minimum of 9 semester hours during a regular semester.

### 8.2 Credit

The main campus of East Carolina University operates on the semester system. The fall and spring semesters are each approximately 14 weeks in length, plus one additional week for final examinations. The summer session is divided into two equal terms of approximately five and one-half weeks each. Several MPH courses are offered during an 11-week summer session.

The university is in session five and one-half days each week. Typically, class time occurs for three hours in late afternoon (3pm-6pm) for one evening per week. MPH courses are numbered 6000 or higher. Graduate degree credit can be earned only at the standard of a minimum of **750 scheduled minutes** of instructional time or the equivalent per credit hours, as stated in the UNC Policy Manual.

Graduate students who seek and obtain permission to take courses at other institutions for subsequent transfer to degree programs at East Carolina University may obtain credit only at the standard of a minimum of 750 scheduled minutes of instructional time or the equivalent per credit hours, as stated in the UNC Policy Manual.

### 8.3 Transfer Credits

With the permission from the MPH program director and dean of graduate school, up to one third (1/3) of the credit hours in a graduate certificate or degree program may be transferred from a regionally accredited college or university. No credit hours completed as part of a previously earned master's degree can be counted toward a second master's degree. Please see the ECU Graduate School admissions page for more details.

### 8.4 Schedule Changes

A graduate student may add a course or courses through the last day to register for the semester (fall/spring semesters this is the 5th class day), also called the course adjustment period. A graduate student may drop a course via Self-Service Banner, if dropped by the last day of the course adjustment period.

No course is officially dropped or added until all appropriate approvals are obtained from the advisor and/or the Graduate School.

## 9.0 Grading System

### 9.1 Grades and Scholarship

At the first scheduled class meeting, the instructor must state the basic requirements and assignments of the course and indicate his or her method of evaluation. In the Graduate School, grades consist of A, AU, B, C, F, I, NR, S, U, and W.

### 9.2 Definition of Grades

1. **A** (Excellent)
2. **AU** (Audit)
3. **B** (Good)
4. **C** (Passed)
5. **F** (Failure)
6. **I** (Incomplete) The grade of "I" is given for a deficiency in the quantity of work done in a course, as opposed to quality of work done in a course. It may only be awarded in extenuating circumstances. A student must have completed a substantial proportion of the course work and be passing the class. The grade is considered temporary. "I" grades must be resolved within one calendar year or a grade of "F" will be automatically assigned; instructors have the prerogative to require a shorter period of time to complete the remaining requirements. No student will be allowed to graduate with an incomplete on his or her record. The grade of "I" cannot be given for theses or dissertations. No exceptions to this policy will be granted.
7. **NR** (Not reported by faculty)
8. **S** (Satisfactory progress) A special grade reserved for thesis and dissertation research, internships, practica, and similar courses. The grades in these courses are not included in meeting the cumulative grade point average of 3.0 required for graduation.
9. **U** (Unsatisfactory progress) A special grade reserved for thesis and dissertation research, internships, practica, and similar courses. The grades in these courses are not included in meeting the cumulative grade point average of 3.0 required for graduation.
10. **W** (Withdrawn)

## 10.0 Frequently Asked Questions about the ECU MPH program

### 1. How many credit hours are required for graduation?

45 semester credit hours.

### 2. Are all students required to complete an internship in public health?

Yes. The internship is an integral component of the MPH Program. Students with substantial previous field experience may petition to be exempt from the internship requirement or a portion thereof. Exemption is at the discretion of the MPH Program Director.

### 3. How long will it take to complete the degree requirements?

It depends on whether you pursue this on a full-time basis or part-time. Students can complete the program in 2 to 4 years.

### 4. Can I transfer courses from another master of public health program or graduate school?

With approval of the program director and Dean of the Graduate School, up to 12 credit hours may be transferred, depending on how well a course matches the ECU MPH course substituted and accreditation standards.

### 5. Are courses offered in the evening?

Most courses are offered in the late afternoon or early evening once per week for three hours.

### 6. Can I take courses on-line?

The MPH program was not designed to be offered completely online in a distance education format. Many courses are available in distance education format, but some core and concentration courses are not offered online. Courses with sections ending in 601 are online courses. Courses with section 001 are face-to-face courses. Some courses are offered in both formats, but this varies by semester. Typically courses meet 1 day per week for 3 hours typically after 3 pm.

### 7. How do I apply?

Through an application to the ECU graduate school at [www.ecu.edu/gradschool/](http://www.ecu.edu/gradschool/). All supplemental materials will need to be sent to the Graduate School.

### 8. What is the application deadline?

Deadlines for submission of admission applications are April 15 for fall semester and October 15 for spring semester. **Prospective students are strongly urged to apply well before the deadline.** Late admission will be considered based on program capacity.

### 9. Are students accepted only for fall admission?

No, the MPH Program admits students for the spring semester as well.

**10. What is the minimum GPA required?**

Until the program has experience upon which to judge the ability of students to successfully complete the MPH program, the minimum standards of the ECU graduate school apply - a minimum overall undergraduate GPA of 2.7 or a senior year GPA of 3.0. College Algebra is required on undergraduate transcript to take biostatistics.

**11. What entrance exams and scores are required? Get new GRE scores?**

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is used as one gauge of an applicant's ability to successfully complete the program. We require applicants to take the GRE. A combined GRE score of 309 or greater is desirable.

**12. Must I take the Graduate Record Exam if I have already completed a graduate degree?**

It depends on what the graduate program was, how recently you completed it, and what your grades were in the program. If you are interested in waiving the GRE, you must receive written consent from the MPH Program Director **BEFORE** the application deadline.

**13. How do I find more about the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)?**

Go to <http://www.ets.org/gre>

**14. Is there any financial aid?**

ECU Financial Aid information can be found at <http://www.ecu.edu/financial/>

**15. Is the program accredited?**

ECU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges. The MPH Program was fully accredited in 2012 for seven years by Council on Education for Public Health.

### **Contact information**

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## Appendix 1 - CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies

CEPH MPH Foundational Competencies	
Evidence-based Approaches to Public Health	
1.	Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice
2.	Select quantitative and qualitative data collection methods appropriate for a given public health context
3.	Analyze quantitative and qualitative data using biostatistics, informatics, computer-based programming and software, as appropriate
4.	Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy or practice
Public Health & Health Care Systems	
5.	Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings
6.	Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels
Planning & Management to Promote Health	
7.	Assess population needs, assets and capacities that affect communities' health
8.	Apply awareness of cultural values and practices to the design or implementation of public health policies or programs
9.	Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention
10.	Explain basic principles and tools of budget and resource management
11.	Select methods to evaluate public health programs
Policy in Public Health	
12.	Discuss multiple dimensions of the policy-making process, including the roles of ethics and evidence
13.	Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
14.	Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations
15.	Evaluate policies for their impact on public health and health equity
Leadership	
16.	Apply principles of leadership, governance and management, which include creating a vision, empowering others, fostering collaboration and guiding decision making
17.	Apply negotiation and mediation skills to address organizational or community challenges
Communication	
18.	Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors
19.	Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation
20.	Describe the importance of cultural competence in communicating public health content
Interprofessional Practice	
21.	Perform effectively on interprofessional teams
Systems Thinking	
22.	Apply systems thinking tools to a public health issue

## Appendix 2 - Concentration-Specific Competencies

### Concentration-Specific Competencies

#### Health Behavior

1. Design a conceptual and/or logic model to guide intervention development and/or data collection for program evaluation
2. Develop an evaluation plan for health promotion and disease prevention interventions that address multiple levels of the socioecological framework
3. Use qualitative and/or quantitative methods to analyze data regarding programmatic needs, evaluation, or other public health issue.
4. Create a plan for public health partnership building to achieve common community and public health goals
5. Demonstrate knowledge related to managing a project including budget preparation, managing timelines and deliverables, and training staff for data collection

#### Epidemiology

1. Critically evaluate public health literature through application of fundamental principles and methods of epidemiology
2. Develop a foundation for designing valid and efficient protocols to address public health problems
3. Apply quantitative skills to organize, analyze, interpret and synthesize epidemiologic data related to public health issues
4. Design surveillance for a public health problem and identify surveillance needs
5. Collaborate across disciplines to plan, implement, and evaluate public health programs

#### Health Administration

1. Apply systems thinking in addressing rural and minority health inequities
2. Examine policy impacts on health and health care access for disadvantaged populations
3. Participation in policy formation and advocacy to improve the health and health care access for disadvantaged populations to reduce health inequities
4. Leadership skills in strategic planning/management with a focus on reducing disparities in disadvantaged populations
5. Financial performance analysis
6. Human resources management skills inclusive of diversity and disadvantaged populations

## Appendix 3 - Student Request - Change of Academic Advisor and/or Concentration

### MPH Student Request Change of Academic Advisor and/or Concentration

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID \_\_\_\_\_

Date Change Requested \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student's Current MPH Concentration ☐ Epidemiology ☐ Health Administration ☐ Human Behavior

Student's Current Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Requested Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Requested Concentration ☐ Epidemiology ☐ Health Administration ☐ Human Behavior

Student's reason for requesting a change of Academic Advisor

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**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Current Academic Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Requested Academic Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



## Appendix 4 - Student Request - Change of Professional Paper Advisor

### MPH Student Request Change of Professional Paper Advisor

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID \_\_\_\_\_

Date Change Requested \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student's Current MPH Concentration ☐ Epidemiology ☐ Health Administration ☐ Human Behavior

Student's Current Professional Paper Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Requested Professional Paper Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Student's reason for requesting a change of Professional Paper Advisor

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**Student's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Current Professional Paper Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Requested Professional Paper Advisor's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 5 - Advising Form - Epidemiology Concentration (Epi)

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission Status ☐ Regular Admit

☐ Special Admit (may need Student Services Consult)

Academic Year Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Time Frame for Graduation ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years

☐ 2.5 years ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Core Courses		SH	Year/Term	Final Grade
MPH 6000	Public Health Practice	3		
MPH 6002	Ethics and Law Public Health	3		
MPH 6010	Fundamentals of Environmental Health	3		
MPH 6011	Introduction to Epidemiology	3		
MPH 6013	Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	3		
MPH 6035	Interdisciplinary Rural Health	3		
MPH 6702	Epidemiology Methods	3		
BIOS 7021	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	3		
Concentration Core Courses (Required)				
MPH 7202	Introduction to Public Health Data Analysis-SAS	3		
BIOS 7022	Biostatistics for Health Professionals II	3		
Concentration Electives (Chose 3)				
MPH 6201	Epidemiology of Chronic Disease	3		
MPH 6022	Epidemiology of Infectious Disease	3		
MPH 6023	Epidemiology of Cancer	3		
MPH 7200	Principles of Public Health Surveillance	3		
MPH 7205	Nutritional Epidemiology	3		
Application Courses				
MPH 6904	Introduction to Field Placement	1		
MPH 6905	Applied Field Placement	2		
MPH 6991	Professional Paper I	2		
MPH 6992	Professional Paper II	1		
		<b>Required Hours = 45</b>	<b>45</b>	
Other Courses				
HIMA 6060	Health Informatics - Theory and Application	3		

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 6 - Advising Form - Health Administration Concentration (HA)**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission Status ☐ Regular Admit☐ Special Admit (may need Student Services Consult)

Academic Year Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Time Frame for Graduation ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years☐ 2.5 years ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Core Courses		SH	Year/Term	Final Grade
MPH 6000	Public Health Practice	3		
MPH 6002	Ethics and Law Public Health	3		
MPH 6010	Fundamentals of Environmental Health	3		
MPH 6011	Introduction to Epidemiology	3		
MPH 6013	Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	3		
MPH 6020	Research Methods	3		
MPH 6035	Interdisciplinary Rural Health	3		
BIOS 7021	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	3		
Concentration Core Courses (Required)				
MPH 6800	Health Policy and Politics	3		
MPH 6801	Strategic and Financial Management of Healthcare Organizations	3		
MPH 7010	Human Resource Management and Leadership for Health Administration	3		
Concentration Electives (Chose 2)				
MPH 6025	Health Services Delivery	3		
MPH 6040	Long-term Health Administration	3		
MPH 6200	Community Health Organization and Leadership	3		
MPH 6700	Health Economics	3		
HIMA 6060	Health Informatics - Theory and Application	3		
Application Courses				
MPH 6904	Introduction to Field Placement	1		
MPH 6905	Applied Field Placement	2		
MPH 6991	Professional Paper I	2		
MPH 6992	Professional Paper II	1		
		<b>Required Hours = 45</b>	<b>45</b>	

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

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**Appendix 7 - Advising Form - Health Behavior Concentration (HB)**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Banner ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission Status ☐ Regular Admit☐ Special Admit (may need Student Services Consult)

Academic Year Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Time Frame for Graduation ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years☐ 2.5 years ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Core Courses		SH	Year/Term	Final Grade
MPH 6000	Public Health Practice	3		
MPH 6002	Ethics and Law Public Health	3		
MPH 6010	Fundamentals of Environmental Health	3		
MPH 6011	Introduction to Epidemiology	3		
MPH 6013	Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	3		
MPH 6020	Research Methods	3		
MPH 6035	Interdisciplinary Rural Health	3		
BIOS 7021	Biostatistics for Health Professionals I	3		
Concentration Core Courses (Required)				
MPH 6600	Planning Public Health Programs	3		
MPH 6605	Evaluating Public Health Programs	3		
MPH 6027	Applied Mixed Methods	3		
Concentration Electives				
MPH 7201	Introduction to Survey Methods	3		
See below	See bundle of courses to equal 3 SHs	3		
Application Courses				
MPH 6904	Introduction to Field Placement	1		
MPH 6905	Applied Field Placement	2		
MPH 6991	Professional Paper I	2		
MPH 6992	Professional Paper II	1		
<b>Required Hours = 45</b>		<b>45</b>		

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**High Recommendation** - Bundle 3 SH of electives**MPH 7031 - Topics in Public Health**

Grant Writing in Public Health  
 Social Media and Social Marketing  
 Quality Improvement





